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SUBJECT: CHARGE'S MEETING WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TB AND MALARIA

¶1. Summary. Charge paid a courtesy call February 5, 2009, on Dr. Michel Kazatchkine, Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM). Noting U.S. strong support for the Fund, Charge stressed the need for more efficiency savings to finance the Fund's Round 8 proposals, urged continued collaboration between the Fund and UNAIDS, and emphasized the importance of reports to the GFATM Board by the Fund's Inspector General, particularly on Zimbabwe. Kazatchkine, agreeing on the importance of these points, said he would ask the U.S. to pledge a contribution to the Fund of \$2.7 billion in 2010, expressed the hope the U.S. would attend the Fund's April pledging conference in Spain at a high level, and said he would visit Washington February 17-19, primarily for meetings with the Congress and private sector partners. End summary.

¶2. In an effort to strengthen ties between the GFATM and U.S. Mission Geneva, the Charge, accompanied by Mission's Health Attache, met February 5 with GFATM Executive Director Kazatchkine, who was accompanied by his Chief of Staff, Enrico Mollica. Kazatchkine, expressing appreciation for the strong support for the Fund from the United States, both financially and by participation in the GFATM Board and its committees, said he would visit Washington February 17-19 for meetings with the Congress and private sector partners. He expressed the hope to meet also with officials of the new Administration responsible for issues related to the Fund, but understood such officials may not yet be in place.

¶3. Responding to the Charge's reference to the efficiency savings mandated by the GFATM Board to finance Round 8

proposals, Kazatchkine said he would seek such savings at the level of 10% in grant negotiations in countries and would seek similar savings at Headquarters related to hiring and travel. Predicting Round 9 grant proposals at the same level as Round 8, he foresaw a 2010 funding gap of \$3-4 billion.

¶4. Turning to the GFATM pledging conference in April in Spain, Kazatchkine, noting that Spanish Prime Minister Zapatero had agreed to open the meeting, expressed the hope the U.S. would be represented at a high level. Kazatchkine said he would ask the U.S. to pledge a contribution of \$2.7 billion for 2010, agreeing this was an ambitious target. He said his request was based both on PEPFAR's anticipated shift of more funding toward multilateral interventions and on the "ethical mortgage" donors had undertaken with respect to maintaining antiretroviral treatment regimens.

¶5. Kazatchkine agreed it was important for the Fund's Inspector General to report regularly to the GFATM Board, and said the IG was strengthening his office through increased recruitment. He said the IG would report on regular audits as well as on investigations such as the possible misuse of

resources in Zimbabwe. He also said the IG had established a hotline to facilitate receiving information from whistleblowers.

16. Noting the new Memorandum of Understanding between the GFATM and UNAIDS, the Charge encouraged Kazatchkine to collaborate more closely with UNAIDS, particularly in the areas of technical assistance and monitoring and evaluation. Stressing his close ties to Michel Sidibe, the new UNAIDS Executive Director, Kazatchkine agreed such collaboration was essential.

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